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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2185
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHMFIU/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS KABUL 000028

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/FO DAS CAMP, SCA/A, PRM
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR AID/ANE, AID/DCHA/DG
NSC FOR JWOOD
OSD FOR SHIVERS
CG CJTF-82, POLAD, JICCEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PK](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: Afghanistan Aids Pakistanis Fleeing Kurram Violence

¶11. (U) Afghan media reported January 2 that President Karzai had ordered an inter-ministerial humanitarian needs assessment in anticipation of more Pakistani refugees fleeing Sunni-Shia fighting in Kurram Agency. The Minister of Refugees and Repatriation is leading an assessment team to the Terzai/Ali Sher, Bak and Jaji Maidan districts of Khost province and to Jaji Aryoub and Dand-wa-Patan districts in Paktia province. The Paktia Department of Refugees and Repatriation has already provided shelter and blankets to 111 Pakistani refugee families. Paktia's governor estimates 1000 families may cross the border from Pakistan into his province alone. Among these are likely to be Afghan families who, years ago, fled war in their home country and settled among tribal kinsmen in Pakistan.

¶12. (SBU) The United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Kabul office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have dispatched a joint assessment team to the affected areas. Both agencies are concerned harsh winter conditions and high refugee volumes will strain Afghan central and provincial humanitarian assistance capabilities; however, many of the Pakistani refugees are likely to be absorbed by tribal relatives on the Afghanistan side of the porous border.

¶13. (SBU) Comment: An Afghan government providing assistance to Pakistani refugees is a dramatic reversal of the pattern that has prevailed for most of the last thirty years. The government's prompt response to a developing humanitarian crisis suggests the nascent professionalism and growing capability of Afghan government emergency response agencies.

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